

## Calvert County — Leason Cove

### What was requested?

The department received a request to expand the existing 6 knot speed zone. The request is for expansion of the 6 knot speed zone for all vessels by moving the 6 knot at all times buoy 450 yards to the mouth of Leason Cove (Mill Creek area of Lusby). This is a narrow cove subject to wake reflection. Boaters are not aware of “be responsible for your wake” with respect to adjacent properties and unpowered small craft like kayaks and canoes. Boaters have the main stems of Mill and St. John creeks for higher speeds with craft 17 feet and under. The area between the buoy and the mouth and continuing into Mill Creek has no speed limit for vessels under 17 feet.

### What is the current regulation for the area?

The request is to expand the area described in the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 08.18.20.04.

[COMAR 08.18.20](#) Patuxent River.

[Regulation .04](#) Patuxent River North Shore.

G. Leason Cove—Calvert County encompasses the area upstream of a line beginning at a point, at or near Lat. 38° 19.880’ N., Long. 76° 26.245’ W., then running 47° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 19.923’ N., Long. 76° 26.185’ W. This area has a 6-knot speed limit all year.

### Why was this change requested?

*The requestor stated:* Boat operators speed in the cove, up to the buoy, without regard to their wakes, tides, property, other boaters, kayakers, or paddle boarders. Some are often towing large tubes with up to four riders, which usually accentuates their wakes. Personal watercraft operators usually don't observe the 100-foot rule. The cove is narrow enough that high speed turns can be dangerous, especially when towing tubes or skiers.

Most of the main body of Mill and St. John Creeks are open to no speed limit for boats under 17 feet. However, boaters speed in the small and narrow coves and are either ignoring or are unaware of being responsible for vessel wakes. This change will help protect property owners from wake damage, eliminate high speed turns in a narrow area, and improve safety for small unpowered vessels and boards.

### Maps of the Area

[https://dnr.maryland.gov/boating/Documents/regulations/BAAC-Leason%20Cove\\_2021.pdf](https://dnr.maryland.gov/boating/Documents/regulations/BAAC-Leason%20Cove_2021.pdf)

### Who could this affect?

- All types of boating activities occur in this area; therefore, it could affect all waterway users (recreational and commercial), business owners in the area, and property owners in the area.
- There are not any marinas in the area.

### Has this change been discussed with advisory bodies?

The department and the Boat Act Advisory Committee (BAAC) are gathering information and will meet in September to fully discuss and [evaluate](#) the request. Please [join our mailing list](#) to be notified when this request will be evaluated by the BAAC.

**When will this be effective?**

This change could be effective in 2022, however, at this time, the department cannot determine if the change will be adopted nor the exact date that it could be effective. The department will follow our normal scoping and proposal procedure. The goal of scoping is to identify issues, potential impacts, and reasonable alternatives associated with the issues so that management actions can be developed.

After the public has had an opportunity to comment on possible management actions during the scoping process, the department considers these comments and develops an appropriate management strategy.

If the action is necessary and appropriate, the rules will be promulgated following the Administrative Procedures Act described in Title 10, Subtitle 1 of the State Government Article Annotated Code of Maryland.

- The General Assembly's Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review Committee reviews the regulatory proposal for fiscal and legal analysis.
- The proposal is printed by the Division of State Documents in the Maryland Register.
- A 30-day public comment period begins on the day of publication.
- After review of the comments, the department may adopt the changes.
- If the department adopts the changes, they become effective after a notice is published in the Maryland Register that announces approval and the effective date.

**Notes Regarding This Summary**

This summary is prepared in accordance with the requirements of State Government Article, §10-110, Annotated Code of Maryland. It is intended to help you understand the potential or revised rules. This summary is not intended to replace or supersede these rules, but to facilitate understanding and compliance with the rules. The department will clarify or update the text of the summary as the idea moves through the regulatory process.